

John Boehner
Chairman
8th District, Ohio

House Meets at 10:00 a.m. for Legislative Business

Anticipated Floor Action:

Receding to the Senate Amendments to H.R. 1122 (Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act)

H.R. 901—American Land Sovereignty Act

**H.R. 2158—FY 1998 VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act
(Conference Report)**

Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 1757 (State Department Authorization Act)



H.R. 1122—Receding to Senate Amendments to the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act

Floor Situation: The House is scheduled to consider H.R. 1122, as amended by the Senate, as its first order of business today. Yesterday, the Rules Committee granted a rule which provides for one hour of debate, equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Judiciary Committee.

Summary: H.R. 1122 prohibits medical doctors who perform abortions from utilizing “partial-birth” abortion procedures. As defined by the bill, such a procedure involves a partial vaginal delivery of a living unborn child before killing it and completing the delivery. The bill imposes fines or potential imprisonment of up to two years, and allows the father or maternal grandparents (if the birth mother is under 18 years of age) to file a civil lawsuit against the doctor for monetary damages. The bill, however, includes an exception to the ban when a partial-birth abortion is necessary to save the life of the mother. As amended by the Senate, the bill includes language which (1) strikes redundant language which states that the procedure may be used only if medically necessary; (2) clarifies bill language which defines the partial-birth abortion procedure; and (3) allows a defendant to have a hearing in front of the medical board in the state where the partial-birth abortion procedure was performed. CBO estimates that enactment will have no significant impact on the federal budget. H.R. 1122 was introduced by Mr. Canady et al. on March 5, 1997. The bill passed the House by a vote of 295-136 on March 20, 1997; the Senate passed the bill, as amended, by a vote of 64-36 on May 20, 1997.

Views: The Republican Leadership supports passage of H.R. 1122. The Clinton Administration opposes the bill and has pledged to veto it.

Additional Information: For information on H.R. 1122 as it went to the House floor, see *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVI, #7, March 14, 1997 and #28, October 3, 1997.



H.R. 901—American Land Sovereignty Protection Act

Floor Situation: The House is scheduled to complete H.R. 901 after it completes consideration of the Senate amendments to H.R. 1122. Yesterday, the House completed general debate and began consideration of amendments under a unanimous consent agreement that made in order a committee amendment in the nature of a substitute as base text. The agreement also made in order six amendments. The agreement permits the chairman of the Committee of the Whole to postpone votes and reduce the voting time on a postponed vote to five minutes, so long as it follows a regular 15-minute vote. Finally, the agreement provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Summary: H.R. 901 amends the National Historic Preservation Act (*P.L. 96-515*) to (1) require the legislative consent of Congress before nominating a property located in the United States for inclusion on the World Heritage List; (2) prohibit any federal official from nominating U.S. property for designation as a Biosphere Reserve and terminating existing Biosphere Reserves unless certain conditions are met; and (3) prohibit any federal official from nominating or designating any federal land for a special or restricted use under any international agreement unless specifically authorized by law. CBO estimates that enactment will have no significant impact on the federal budget. The bill was introduced by Mr. Young; the Resources Committee reported the bill by a vote of 26-9 on June 25, 1997.

Views: The Republican leadership supports passage of the measure. The Clinton Administration opposes the bill and has pledged to veto it.

Amendments: Yesterday, the House completed debate, but did not vote on, the following amendments:

- * an amendment (#5) by **Mr. Farr** to exempt the California Coast Ranges Biosphere Reserves from termination upon enactment of the bill. *Staff Contact: Jennifer Newton, x5-2861*
- * an amendment (#51) by **Mr. Vento** to expand the definition of “special use” under the bill, which currently prohibits any federal official from nominating or designating any federal land for a special or restricted use under any international agreement unless specifically authorized by law. The amendment prohibits any federal official from nominating or designating any federal land for a special, *including commercial*, or restricted use under any international agreement unless specifically authorized by law. *Staff Contact: Terry Klein, x5-6631*

- * an amendment by **Mr. Miller (CA)** to prohibit all existing Biosphere Reserves from being terminated upon enactment of the bill. Specifically, the amendment eliminates the provision in the bill that terminates existing Biosphere Reserves unless: (1) the reserve is specifically authorized in a subsequently enacted law by December 31, 2000; (2) the designated reserve consists entirely of lands owned by the United States; and (3) a management plan for the reserve has been implemented which specifically provides for the protection of non-federal property rights and uses. **Staff Contact:** *Chris Mann, x6-2311*

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVI, #26, September 19, 1997.



H.R. 2158—FY 1998 VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act (Conference Report)

Floor Situation: The House is scheduled to consider the conference report to H.R. 2158 after it completes consideration of H.R. 901. Conference reports are privileged and may be considered any time three days after they are filed; they are debatable for one hour, may not be amended, and are subject to one motion to recommit. Yesterday, the Rules Committee granted a rule waiving all points of order against the conference report and its consideration.

Summary: The conference report to H.R. 2158 appropriates \$90.7 billion in net new budget authority—\$726 million less than the House-passed bill and \$4.8 billion more than FY 1997—for veterans benefits, housing programs, and various agencies dealing mostly with science, space, and the environment. A majority of these funds, \$69.1 billion, go toward discretionary spending programs, while the remaining \$21.6 million is mandatory spending (outside the control of the Appropriations Committee).

Major breakdowns in funding include:

- * \$40.5 billion for the Department of Veterans Affairs, \$5.3 million more than the House-passed bill and \$366 million more than in FY 1997. This amount includes \$17.1 billion for veterans medical care;
- * \$23.7 billion for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), \$1.5 billion less than the House-passed bill and \$7.4 billion more than FY 1997. This amount includes \$8.2 billion to renew Section 8 housing contracts;
- * \$7.4 billion for the Environmental Protection Agency, \$158 million more than the House level and \$564 million more than FY 1997. This amount includes (1) \$631 million for EPA research and development; (2) \$1.5 billion for Superfund cleanup work, which includes \$111 million in “brownfields” funding (\$25 million to HUD); (3) \$1.35 billion for clean water state revolving funds and \$725 million for safe drinking water state revolving funds; and (4) \$830 million for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA);
- * \$425.5 million for the AmeriCorps program, \$225 million more than the House level, \$25 million more than FY 1997, and \$121 million below the presidents request; and
- * \$13.6 billion for National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

The bill also eliminates funding for the Office of Consumer Affairs (\$1.5 million) and the Globe Program (Global Learning and Observation to Benefit the Environment; \$1 million). Finally, the conference report includes legislative provisions to reform the Section 8 housing program.

The House passed H.R. 2158 by a vote of 238-192 on July 16, 1997. The Senate approved the bill by voice vote on July 22, 1997. The conference report was submitted by Mr. Lewis on October 6, 1997.

Views: The Republican leadership supports passage of the measure. An official Clinton Administration viewpoint was unavailable at press time

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVI, #28, Pt. III October 7, 1997; and #19, July 3, 1997.



Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 1757 (State Department Authorization Act)

Floor Situation: The House may consider a motion by Mr. Callahan to instruct House conferees on H.R. 1757 after it completes consideration of the conference report to H.R. 2158. Such a motion is privileged after a bill has been in conference for 20 days and must be considered within two legislative days of being filed. The motion is debatable for one hour. The House appointed conferees on H.R. 1757 on July 28, 1997.

Summary: The motion instructs House conferees to maintain so-called “Mexico City” policy restrictions which prohibit U.S. population assistance to foreign organizations that perform abortions in foreign countries, violate the abortion laws of foreign countries, or lobby for changes in such laws. The prohibition allows exceptions in cases of rape, incest, or when the life of the mother is endangered.

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVI, #15, Pt. II, June 3, 1997.



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